GoM for anomalies in pay scales of Subedar Major and Havaldar in the Army

637. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that anomalies in the pay scales of Subedar Major and Havaldar in Army are under consideration of the Group of Ministers;

(b) if so, when the issue was referred to it and the reasons for delay in receiving recommendations; and

(c) by when, the Group of Ministers is expected to come to a conclusion in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The fifth Central Pay Commission (CPC) had made various recommendations for improving the service conditions, including pay and allowances of the Armed Forces personnel. A High Level Committee (HLC) with Defence Secretary as Chairman, Vice Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Chief of Air Staff, Vice Chief of Army Staff and Financial Adviser (Defence Services) as members was, however, constituted in December, 1997 specifically to consider the anomalies in the pay and allowances of Armed Forces Personnel, arising out of the implementation of the V CPC recommendations. The recommendations of this Committee were, further, examined by a Group of senior officers, headed by Cabinet Secretary. The Cabinet while approving the recommendations of Group of Officers had directed that the two issues *i.e.* pay scales of the Personnel Below Officers' Rank and of Lt. General/equivalent, be considered by the Group of Ministers already set up to consider matters related to the recommendations of the fifth CPC. Accordingly, the matter was referred to the Group of Ministers in December, 1999. Based upon the recommendations of the Group of Ministers, the Government implemented 14 pay scales on 3rd October, 2000, removing certain anomalies in the pay scales of personnel below officer rank of Navy and Air Force, arising out of trade rationalisation in the Army. Similarly, one more pay scale was implemented on 10th November, 2000 for those Sergeants of'X' Group of Air Force, who qualify a technical examination at par with diploma in engineering to be designed and conducted by the Air Headquarters.

The issue relating to the remaining 19 pay scales of Personnel Below Officer Rank recommended by HLC including pay scales of Subedar Major and Havaldar were considered by the Group of Ministers. However, the Group of Ministers after detailed deliberations did not agree to the revision of these pay scales because of the wide impact any such revision would have on the pay scales for Central Para Military Forces and other Civilian personnel.